

CONGRESSMAN KILDEE HONORS
MATTHEW CROFT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating a young student from Michigan who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Matthew Croft of Waterford has just been named on of Michigan's top two honorees in the 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Matthew will be honored today with a ceremony to be held at his school.

Matthew is being honored for developing and implementing a program to buy bicycle safety helmets for needy first and second-grade children. As an eighth grader at Marist Academy, Matthew belongs to a group called STAND or Students Taking a New Direction. This group was organized to leadership through doing for others and learning to make healthy choices. After reading an article that stated only 20 percent of bike riders in Michigan wore helmets, Matthew decided to take action. He approached his fellow students in STAND and persuaded them to help correct this problem. Matthew helped organize several fundraisers, he obtained matching funds from AAA, and he approached retailers in the area to get a discount on the cost of the helmets.

Once the helmets were purchased, Matthew was one of four presenters explaining to the elementary students that it is "cool" to wear helmets. The students at Whitmer Resource Center in Pontiac responded enthusiastically. Through Matthew efforts more young children in Pontiac are practicing bicycle safety and wearing headgear that may save their lives.

Matthew should be extremely pleased to be singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. He is an example of the important role young Americans play in our communities. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commending Matthew, his fellow students and faculty at Marist Academy and their families for making this a better world.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

HON. JOHN E. SUNUNU

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to the floor today to honor some very important people in the lives of New Hampshire's children—teachers.

I am proud to recognize the accomplishments of nine recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. These nine recipients are now candidates for the national award.

Like all teachers, they are hard working and dedicated to their students. They instill curiosity and drive to explore ideas and concepts that will help their students in the classroom and throughout their academic pursuits.

The teachers are recognized for their professional performance and for significantly improving their students' understanding of science and mathematics.

The recipients are science and math teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools from all across New Hampshire. I applaud each one of them for their hard work.

In science, the recipients are: Deborah Morill Bates, of Bluff Elementary School, in Claremont; Laura Elise Dreyer, of McKelvie Middle School, in Bedford; Diane Barbara Savage, of Nashua Senior High School, in Nashua; and Dennis Paul Vienneau, of Moultonborough Academy, in Moultonborough.

In mathematics, the recipients are: Catherine Stavenger, of Memorial Elementary School, in Bedford; Janet Christina Valeri, of Mt. Pleasant Elementary School, in Nashua; Terry Reginald Bailey, of Pinkerton Academy, in Derry; Catherine Brownrigg Burns, of McKelvie Middle School, in Bedford; and Dianne Jaye Klabecheck, of Belmont Middle School, in Belmont.

On behalf of your students, your schools, and your state, I salute you.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RONALD L. OWENS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Reverend Ronald L. Owens residing in the Sixth District of New Jersey. He is celebrating his 25th year in the ministry.

Reverend Owens is currently the Senior Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church of Metuchen, New Jersey. On Friday, April 12, 2002, his church will recognize his illustrious career and dedication to Metuchen and surrounding communities. Reverend Owens graduated from Northeastern Bible College in Essex Falls. He also has earned a degree from the Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. Presently, he is a candidate for the Doctorate in Ministry from Andersonville Baptist Seminary in Camille, Georgia.

At the New Hope Baptist Church he has the unique honor of pastoring the church he attended in his youth. The church has grown to more than five hundred active members, with more than thirty active ministries serving the community. Reverend Owens has a noteworthy career. It includes serving as a member of the Board of Supervisors for Field Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary and the Ad-Hoc Committee for Minority Recruitment for Robert Wood Medical School at Rutgers University. Additionally, he has acted as the president of the Metuchen/Edison Clergy Association and former Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Party of Middlesex County in the State of New Jersey. Lastly, he was President and CEO of the House of Hope Community Development Corporation of New Jersey.

Outside of his career, he spends time with his adoring wife of thirty-years, Cheryl Owens, and his two daughters, Tracey and Kimberly. He also enjoys spending time with his four grandsons, Adam II, Joshua, Blair, Jr., and Brandon. Through his ministry he spreads the word of God and provides spiritual leadership.

Now entering his twenty-fifth year of service, I would like to congratulate Reverend Ronald L. Owens on this momentous occasion.

IN HONOR OF DR. JOSE R. SANCHEZ-PENA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jose R. Sanchez-Pena for his many contributions to the Hispanic community. He will be honored by the Federation of Cuban Musicians in Exile on Sunday, March 17, 2002, at Mi Bandera restaurant in Union City, NJ.

Dr. Jose R. Sanchez-Pena is currently an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Puerto Rico and the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey.

He is a member of Barnert Memorial Hospital in Paterson, NJ. In Passaic, NJ, he is a member of Beth Israel Hospital, Saint Mary's Hospital, and General Hospital Center. He is the Medical Director at Gregory Medical Associates, Comprehensive Medical Evaluations, and Gregory Surgical Services.

Dr. Jose R. Sanchez-Pena is an asset to the Hispanic community, providing excellent medical care to countless Hispanics at his medical offices in Manhattan, Queens, Jersey City, West New York, Paterson, Passaic, and Hoboken. Having medical licenses in New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic, he is able to extend his services to a diverse group of individuals.

Not only does he attend to people's medical needs, but his services also benefit the community, as he is a medical consultant for the Social Security Administration, the Immigration and Naturalization Services, and Workmen's Compensation in the State of New York and New Jersey.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Jose Sanchez-Pena for his many contributions to the medical community and the Hispanic community of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO JASON CUNNINGHAM

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it rained in Washington last Wednesday. By Thursday morning the sun was burning through the mist that blanketed Arlington National Cemetery. On the north side of a ridge near a grove of evergreen trees an Air Force honor guard carried Jason Cunningham's casket to his final resting place.

There were six honorary pall bearers who followed the casket up the incline to where the family and a small cluster of others waited. Those six all wore the maroon berets of the Air Force elite pararescuemen. There were dozens of PJs there, mostly from Jason's squadron in Georgia. All of them had completed their PJ training at Kirtland Air Force Base.

Over the ridge to the south of where we stood two cranes lined the sky where crews